

PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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SUBJECT: Rude Curiosity of Soviet Military Attaches since Iranian Adherence to the Baghdad Pact

Apparently as another consequence to Iran's joining the Baghdad Pact, the tactics of certain of the Soviet Service Attaches has shifted to what might be described as rude inquisitiveness. (See Top Secret OARMA Tehran Tel to 4-4 dated November 10, 1955).

The culmination of this attitude occurred on Wednesday evening, November 9, at a reception held at the large Government Iran Officers Club in honor of Major General ARIANA, new Iranian Army Chief of Staff. That evening, Lt. Col. Alexandre Vassilievitch KOUKOVSSY, the Soviet Assistant Military Attache, sought out Major General McClure, Commanding General of ARMISH-MAAG, and in the presence of General QARANI, G-2 Imperial Iranian Army, and Lt. Col. BUCK, G-2 ARMISH-MAAG, brusquely demanded to know the number of U.S. military advisers in Iran, the number and explanation of U.S. soldiers under arms. Koukovsky's tactic with the Naval Attache has been somewhat different for whereas in the past he has tended to ignore him he now on occasion rushes over and interrupts whatever conversation might be taking place. Abrupt demands for information have also been made upon Brigadier General KHAZAI, Iranian Army Liaison officer with ARMISH-MAAG as well as upon other MAAG and U.S. Attaches. In addition, Soviet Attaches, who heretofore have all but ignored the Chinese Nationalist Attaches, have now gone out of their way to insult them to their faces.

COMMENT: It seems obvious that these Soviet officers are under pressure to get current military information and to get it quick and it remains to be seen whether their non-productive tactics will be picked up by the other Soviet members of the Soviet Embassy who in recent months have gone out of their way to cultivate in a more friendly manner certain members of this Embassy. (See Embassy Despatch #323 of November 7, 1955.)

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

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First Secretary of Embassy

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